

Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An arrangement, comprising:

a plurality of network components comprising a monitoring component and a monitored component, each network component comprising:

a communication unit providing a direct communication to the other network components,

a memory ~~to store~~having an address of the monitoring component when the respective component is being monitored,

a processing unit,

the processing unit monitors a state of the respective component and sends information pertaining to the of the respective component, the state information information sent via the communication unit to the stored address when the respective component is being monitored, the state indicates an availability of the respective component, and

the processing unit transmits a monitoring instruction to the monitored component when the respective component is monitoring, the monitoring instruction comprises the address of the respective monitoring component and sent directly to the monitored component via the communication unit,

wherein each network component is:

addressable in a communication network,

monitored by each of the other network components via the processing unit, and

equipped for monitoring each of the other network components via the communication unit.

11. (previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the communication network is a packet switched network.

12. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein a maximum number of addresses stored is predetermined, each address stored is an address of a monitoring component.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the monitoring instruction comprises information about which changes of state are to be sent as state information.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the monitoring component uses the information about states or changes of state for visual indication.

18. (previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the monitored component can disable monitoring by individual or all monitoring components.

19. (previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein while an acknowledgement to the monitoring instruction is not received by the monitoring component, the monitoring component repeats the transmission of a monitoring instruction at stipulated intervals of time.

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 19, wherein the information about the transmittability of the monitoring instruction can be used to determine a corresponding state for the component which is to be monitored.

23. (currently amended) A method for obtaining information about a state or a change of state in a component which is to be monitored and which is part of an arrangement having addressable components which are connected in the communication network, the method comprising:

- monitoring the component by a monitoring component;
- transmitting a monitoring instruction by the monitoring component, wherein the instruction comprises the address of the monitoring component;
- directly interchanging data between the monitored and monitoring components;
- directly transmitting the monitoring instruction by the monitoring component to the monitored component;
- storing the address of the monitoring component by the monitored component;
- monitoring a state of the respective monitored component by each monitored component, the state indicates an availability of the respective component; and
- sending an acknowledgement state information from the monitored component the monitoring component in response to receiving the monitoring instruction, the acknowledgement including information pertaining to the state of the current availability of the monitored component.

24. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
predetermining a maximum number of addresses of a monitoring component which can be stored in memory.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
canceling the monitoring by the monitored component.

26. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
while an acknowledgement to the monitoring instruction is not ~~receive~~received by the
monitoring component,
outputting a corresponding indicator by the monitoring component; and
repeating the transmission of a monitoring instruction at stipulated intervals of time.

27. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein information about
the ability to transmit the monitoring instruction is used to determine a corresponding state for
the component which is to be monitored, when the acknowledgment is not received.

28. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the monitoring
the component comprises:

receiving a command from a user of the monitoring component, the command
comprising the telephone number of the monitored component; and
converting the telephone number to a network address for the monitored component,
wherein the monitored instruction is sent using the network address for the monitored
component.

29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the user of the
monitoring component initiates a call to the monitored component.

30. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the user is
provided an input field for inputting a text message to be sent to the monitored component when
the monitored component is busy.

31. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the state
information comprises a change of state of the monitored component.

32. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the monitoring instruction comprises information about which changes of state are to be sent a state information.

33. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein each of the network components are voice over IP telephones.

34. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein each of the network components are telephony clients.

35. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 12, wherein each of the network components is selected from the group consisting of telephone, telephony client, server, gateway, and gatekeeper.

36. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10,
wherein each network component includes a memory for storing a list of addresses prohibited from monitoring the monitored component, and
wherein when the prohibited list of the monitored component includes the address of the monitoring component, the monitored component is not monitored by the monitoring component.

37. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 14, wherein the monitored component sends state information after a change in state.